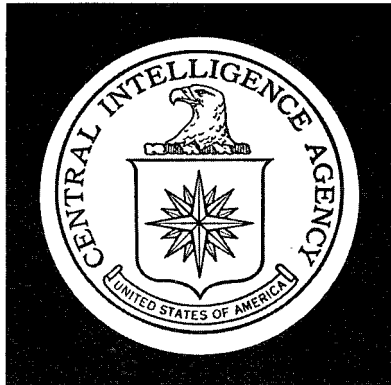


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DIRECTORATE OF  
INTELLIGENCE

## MEMORANDUM

### *The Situation in Vietnam*

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Information as of 1600  
14 February 1967

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### HIGHLIGHTS

Ground action in South Vietnam is light. In North Vietnam, new or formerly inactive airfields are being brought into use for fighter aircraft.

I. The Military Situation in South Vietnam:  
No significant military activity has been reported by any of the 34 US or allied battalion-size or larger operations in progress throughout the country (Para. 1). The US airfield at Nha Trang was shelled by a Viet Cong mortar team early on 15 February, Saigon time (Para. 2). US units participating in Operation BIG SPRING in Binh Duong Province discovered a Viet Cong base camp yesterday (Para. 3). Five-month-old Operation LANIKAI ended in Long An Province yesterday; Operation ENTERPRISE has begun in the same general area (Paras. 4-5). Another vast US and South Vietnamese operation, Operation TUCSON comprising eleven battalions, has been initiated to seek out enemy forces and camps in northwestern Binh Duong Province (Para. 6).

II. Political Developments in South Vietnam:  
There is nothing of significance to report.

III. North Vietnamese Military Developments:  
DRV fighter operations expanding to new airfields (Paras. 1-3).

IV. Other Communist Military Developments:  
There is nothing of significance to report.

V. Communist Political Developments: Hanoi propaganda derides US call for reciprocal action in return for a cessation of the bombings (Para. 1).

VI. Other major aspects: Truck traffic into Laos during Tet the highest on record (Paras. 1-2).

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I. THE MILITARY SITUATION IN SOUTH VIETNAM

1. No significant contact has been reported by any of the 34 US and allied battalion-size or larger ground operations currently in progress throughout South Vietnam.

2. Viet Cong guerrillas fired an undetermined number of mortar rounds at the US air base at Nha Trang in coastal Khanh Hoa Province early on 15 February, Saigon time. Preliminary reports indicate at least one helicopter was damaged during the attack.

3. Elements of the four-battalion search-and-destroy Operation BIG SPRING, presently being conducted in northeastern Binh Duong Province, discovered a Viet Cong base camp on 12 February. The area surrounding the camp was heavily booby-trapped with mortar and artillery rounds and contained many punji pits. A total of 15 weapons, 50 pounds of documents, and a small amount of ammunition was seized. There were no casualties reported.

4. Operation LANIKAI, conducted by one battalion of the US 25th Infantry Division in Long An Province south of Saigon, ended on 13 February. This search-and-destroy operation, which began on 14 September, resulted in a total of 92 Viet Cong killed, 12 captured, and 135 Communist suspects apprehended. In addition to various items of military equipment captured, 50 buildings, 233 bunkers, 13 sampans, nearly 28,000 pounds of rice and 600 pounds of salt, and quantities of mines and munitions were destroyed. American losses during this five-month operation were reported as 14 killed and 38 wounded.

5. Three battalions of the US 9th Infantry Division began Operation ENTERPRISE in Long An Province in the same general area as the recently terminated Operation LANIKAI. This search-and-destroy operation is designed to conduct pacification operations, in coordination with South Vietnamese forces, to extend government influence in Long An Province. One Viet Cong infantry battalion--the 2nd Viet Cong local force infantry battalion with an estimated strength of 400 men--is reported to be in the area.

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6. Nine US and two South Vietnamese infantry battalions began Operation TUCSON on 13 February in northwestern Binh Duong Province. This operation will attempt to seek out and destroy Viet Cong forces and base camp areas. The 272nd Viet Cong Regiment--totaling 2,000 men--is reported to be operating in this area of Binh Duong Province. No contact with the enemy has been reported.

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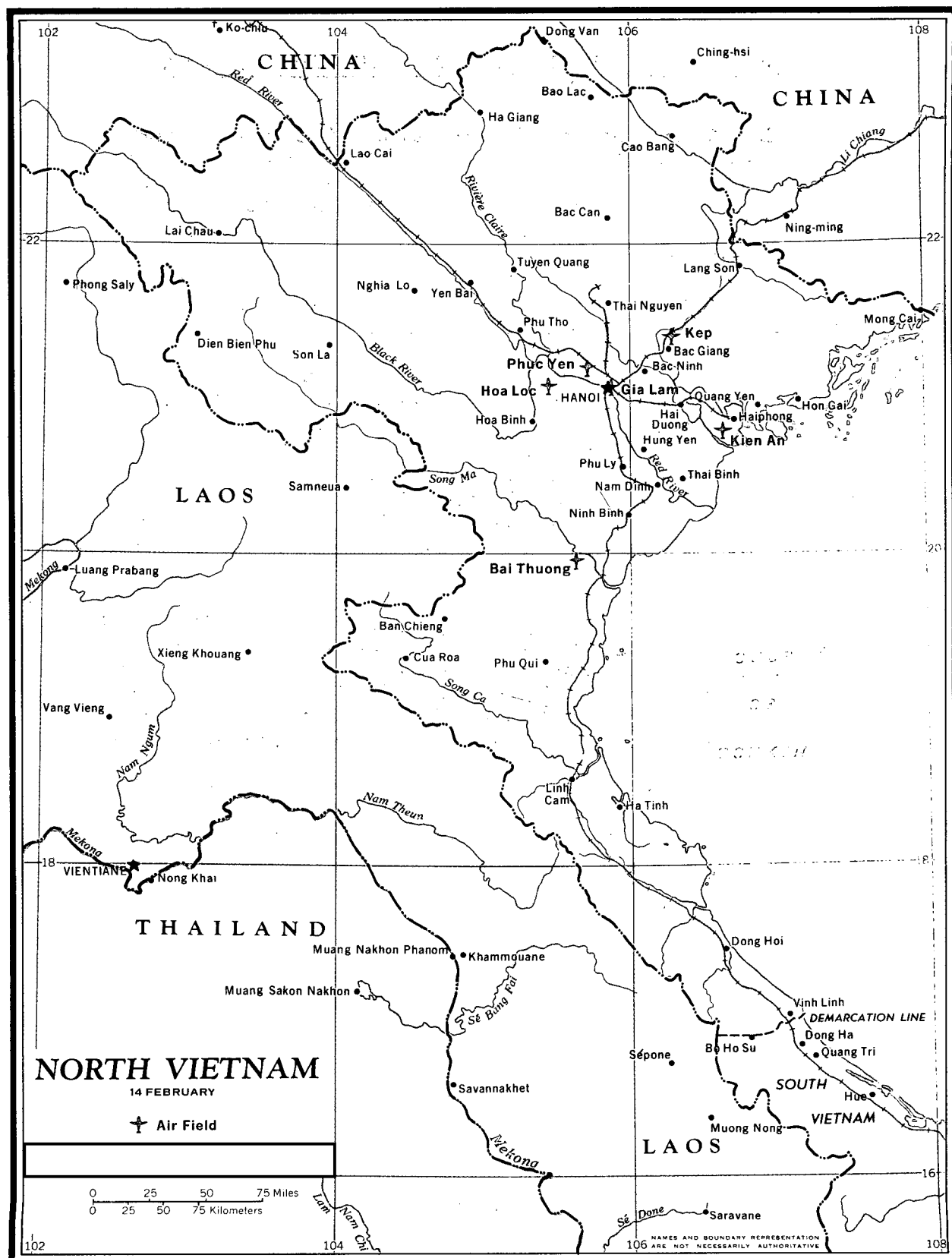
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II. POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTH VIETNAM

1. There is nothing of significance to report.

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III. MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS IN NORTH VIETNAM

1. The expansion of DRV fighter operations to new or formerly inactive airfields is proceeding at a brisk pace, possibly prompted by an interest in dispersing North Vietnam's air defense assets and in providing better fighter protection for areas other than Hanoi.

2. During most of 1966 North Vietnamese MIG activity had been confined to the country's principal fighter base at Phuc Yen. In recent months, however, Hanoi - Gia Lam's MIG-15/17 force has swelled to 15 aircraft as a result of deployments from Phuc Yen. Kep Airfield, inactive since last summer when US aircraft destroyed the base's radar facilities, renewed fighter operations in December 1966 and now has 21 MIG-17s.

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3. Recent aerial photography has revealed that the airfield under construction at Bai Thuong lacks only final runway surfacing before it could support fighter operations.

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IV. OTHER COMMUNIST MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS

1. There is nothing of significance to report.

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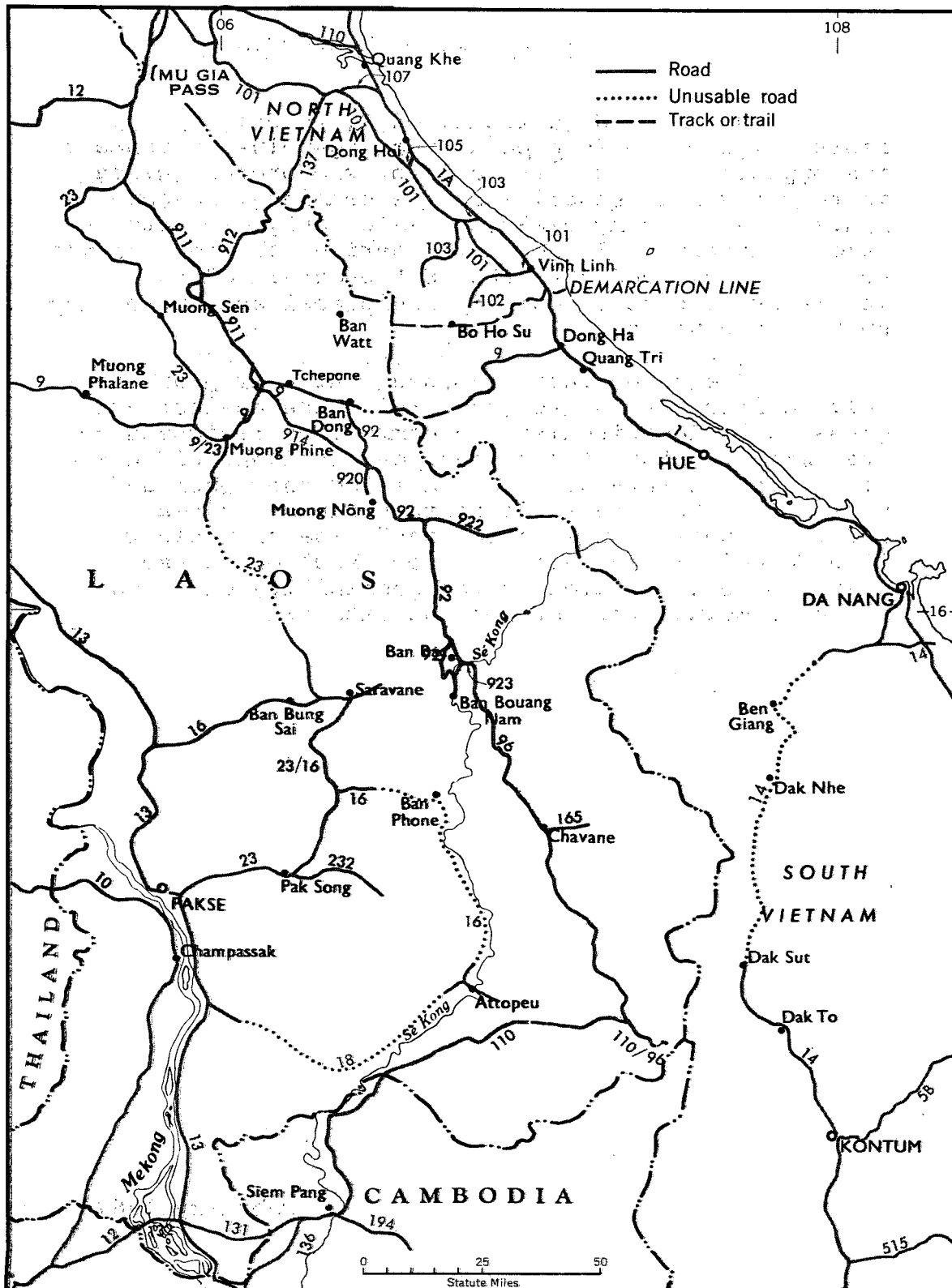
V. COMMUNIST POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

1. Hanoi used Secretary of State Rusk's 9 February press conference as the peg point to restate its opposition to the US call for reciprocal action in return for a cessation of the bombings. A commentary in the army daily, of which only excerpts were broadcast on 14 February, derided the secretary's comments, demanded that the US "de-escalate" unilaterally, and ruled out any reciprocal action for such a bombing halt.

2. The commentary promised that "our people's only reciprocity is resolute resistance against aggression." Additionally the commentary ridiculed statements to the effect that peace talks could begin while military actions continued and concluded by stating that "there definitely can be no peace while US aggression is going on." The army paper, like Ho Chi Minh's letter to Pope Paul on 13 February, made no mention of the possibility of talks if the bombings were stopped unilaterally.

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**LAOS PANHANDLE**

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VI. OTHER MAJOR ASPECTS

1. Between 7 and 10 February, roughly the period of the Tet truce, 385 trucks were reported moving south in the Mu Gia Pass area toward the Laotian infiltration corridor. Initial readout of aerial photography tends to confirm heavy truck movement in the pass area.

2. If confirmed, this level of trucking activity into the panhandle--an average of about 95 per day--would represent the highest number ever recorded in a four-day period. An average of 20 to 25 trucks per day was observed during the month of January in the pass area. No heavy trucking activity comparable to that reported during Tet near the pass has been noted farther south along the infiltration network.

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